

Interagency Natural Areas Coordinating Committee (INACC)
Working Bioregions

The [Agreement on Biological Diversity](#) calls for a state, bioregional, and watershed/landscape approach to conserving biological diversity. The California Biodiversity Council has not formally defined bioregional boundaries because this is best left up to those individuals living in each bioregion. In many cases, fuzzy boundaries may be most appropriate, depending on the specific issues being addressed.

To provide some guidance on bioregions, the Biodiversity Council has made reference to INACC bioregion boundaries. These INACC bioregions were defined as part of a process to improve communication and coordination among public and private organizations. INACC's intention was to outline regions that contained unique mixes of biodiversity and public agency responsibilities.

The 10 INACC bioregions were initially based on the state's major physiographic provinces. Several different variations of these provincial classifications exist, but they all tend to follow the basic eleven areas outlined below.

In some areas, bioregional boundaries were modified to minimize splitting up a major public land management unit. This modification was necessary to accomplish the goal of efficiently improving communication among agencies. For example, although the Klamath National Forest occurs in both the Klamath/North Coast and Modoc provinces, it is inefficient to ask the Forest staff to attend two different bioregional meetings. It made more sense to extend the Klamath/North Coast bioregion eastwards to include all of the Klamath National Forest.

The decision on which jurisdictional boundary to use as a modifier was based on which agency had the greatest local presence. In most cases, this was either the USDA Forest Service (USFS) or Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In areas with little public land, such as the Bay/Delta, county lines were more influential.

Listed below are the major features upon which the INACC bioregional boundaries are based. Please refer to the two attached maps, which describe the major public land management units, watersheds and selected habitats contained in each bioregion.

KLAMATH/NORTH COAST

Description: Bounded on west by coastline and on the north by Oregon border. Extends eastwards to include all of Klamath National Forest and Shasta-Trinity National Forest and the entire North Coast Range (down to Sacramento Valley floor). Bounded on south by southern limits of Lake and Mendocino counties.

MODOC

Description: Bounded on north by Oregon border and on the east by Nevada border. Extends west to include all of Modoc National Forest and Lassen National Forest, plus additional lands extending down to Sacramento Valley floor. Bounded on south by southern limits of Lassen National Forest and Lassen County.

SACRAMENTO VALLEY

Description: Western, northern and eastern limits are the edges of the valley floor (essentially where the blue oak woodland starts). Southern limit is the northern edge of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

BAY/DELTA

Description: Essentially the immediate watershed of the Bay Area and the Delta, not including the major rivers that flow into the Delta. Bounded on north by northern edge of Sonoma and Napa counties and the Delta and extending east to the edge of the valley floor. Bounded on the south by the southern edge of San Joaquin County, the eastern edge of the Diablo Range, the southern edge of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

SIERRA

Description: Bounded on north by northern edge of Plumas National Forest. Western edge is the Sacramento Valley floor. Bounded on the east by the Nevada state line and the western edge of BLM's California Desert Conservation Area. Bounded on west by the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley floor, south to Tejon Pass in the Tehachapi Mountains.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Description: Bounded on north by the southern edge of the Delta, and on all other sides (west, south, east) by the San Joaquin Valley floor. The one major exception to this is the southwestern extension to include the Carrizo Plain and BLM-managed lands in the Caliente Resource Area (eastern San Luis Obispo county).

CENTRAL COAST

Description: Bounded on north by the northern limits of Santa Cruz and San Benito counties, and on the east by the San Joaquin Valley floor and the Carrizo Plain. The southeastern limit is the eastern and southern edges of the Los Padres National Forest. The western edge is the coastline.

MOJAVE

Description: Bounded on west by western edge of BLM California Desert Conservation Area and on east by Nevada state line. Bounded on south by the northern base of the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains, the southern edge of Joshua Tree National Monument, and the southern edge of San Bernardino County (between Joshua Tree and Nevada state line).

SOUTH COAST

Description: Bounded on north by southern edge of Los Padres National Forest and the northern base of San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains. Bounded on east by western edge of BLM California Desert Conservation Area and on south by Mexican border.

COLORADO DESERT

Description: Bounded on west by western edge of BLM Desert Conservation Area and on north by southern edge of Joshua Tree National Monument and the southern edge of San Bernardino County. Bounded on east by Arizona state line and on south by Mexican border.